

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/523,386

Examiner

Christopher R. Lamb

Applicant(s)

VOORMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 29th May 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11-24, renumbered 1, 4, 6, 11, 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 12, 15, 16, 8, 9, 17, 13, and 14, respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed May 29th, 2007 have been fully considered.

Applicant's first argument is that Matsuda does not disclose wherein the slicer compares the amplified detection signals with a reference signal. It is true that Matsuda does not specifically disclose this: nonetheless, this argument is not persuasive, because the level detector of Matsuda must compare the signal with a reference signal in order to detect the level.

Second, Applicant argues that Matsuda does not disclose a generator in a feedback loop between the slicer and the amplifier. However, Ueno was relied upon to teach the generator: in Ueno, the generator is in the feedback loop to the amplifier. In Matsuda, the level detector, or slicer, is in the feedback loop to the amplifier: therefore in their combination it would be obvious to have a generator in the feedback loop between the slicer and the amplifier.

Finally, Applicant is correct in noting that Matsuda does not provide the sliced output to the differential delay detector. In Matsuda, the sliced output feeds back into the amplifier, but the direct output of the amplifier is provided to the differential delay detector. This last argument is persuasive and the previous rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, and 11-24 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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With regards to claim 1: the closest prior art of record, Matsuda in view of Ueno, discloses many elements of the claim, but not every element in the precise combination required by the claim language. Therefore the combination is allowable over the prior art of record.

With regards to claims 4, 5, 8, 19, and 22:

These independent claims contain language similar to that of claim 1.

All other claims are dependent on one of 1, 4, 5, or 8, and thus allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher R. Lamb whose telephone number is (571) 272-5264. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 6:30 PM Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Korzuch can be reached on (571) 272-7589. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CRL 8/2/07

/William R. Korzuch/

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